

USSN: 10/072,575

Atty. Docket: 2002B004

Amdt. dated December 9, 2003

Reply to Final OA of October 9, 2003

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**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Upon entry of the claim amendments, Claims 1-6, 9-12, and 14-15 will be all the claims pending in the application.

Applicant has incorporated the subject matter of now-canceled Claim 13 into Claim 1. Amended Claim 1 is consistent with the description at page 7, lines 1-12, and Examples 1 and 2.

The description at from page 4, line 16, through page 5, line 3, supports new Claim 14. The description at from page 5, line 4, through page 6, line 17, supports new Claim 15.

No new matter has been added.

Referring to Section No. 2, page 2, of the final Action mailed October 9, 2003, Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. Applicant has amended Claim 1, without prejudice or disclaimer, to render moot the present rejection. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of this rejection.

The final Action contains the following prior art rejections:

Claims 1, 6-8, and 11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,500,556 to Morris, *et al.* ("Morris");

Claims 1-3, 5, and 7-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 4,604,322 to Reid in view of Morris; and

Claims 1-3 and 7-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 4,357,383 to Howden, *et al.* ("Howden") in view of Morris;

Applicant respectfully traverses each of the rejections.

Claimed skin layer (b) consists of an extrusion-grade ethylene acid terpolymer resin. The extrusion-grade ethylene acid terpolymer resin contains a total of from about 0.5 wt% to about 6 wt% of (ii) acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, or mixtures thereof, based on the total weight of the

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ethylene acid terpolymer, and a total of from about 6 wt% to about 20 wt% of (iii) alkyl acrylate, alkyl methacrylate, or mixtures thereof, based on the total weight of the ethylene acid terpolymer. The claimed extrusion-grade resin is completely different from prior art coating-grade materials, as explained in detail by the description at from page 9, line 13, through page 11, line 21, of the specification.

The prior art, including Morris, Reid, and Howden does not disclose or suggest the presently claimed invention. In particular, there is no particular suggestion within the prior art that would motivate a person of ordinary skill in the art to select the claimed extrusion-grade ethylene acid terpolymer resin as the component of skin layer (b) instead of the prior art materials.

Morris discloses a blend of materials, as described from column 1, line 65, through column 2, line 2. Furthermore, Morris merely discloses the optional addition of at least one softening co-monomer at column 3, lines 5-15.

With respect to the inventions of present Claims 2-4, the process used to produce the films of Morris is cast extrusion. Claims 2-4 specify casting followed by an orienting process.

With respect to Claims 14 and 15, the prior art does not disclose the combination of a core layer (a) and skin layer (b) is particularly recited in Claims 14 and 15.

For the foregoing reason, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw each of the prior art rejections.

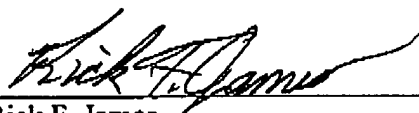
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Reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, he is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 9, 2003

  
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